

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 24 – page 18, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 7 is a flowchart showing the procedure of a placement and routing method for clock distribution circuits according to a third preferred embodiment. This method characteristically differs from the method shown in Fig. 1 in that, when the step S4 decides that the clock skew exceeds the target value, some driver elements are replaced by other driver elements having different driving capabilities and having their input pins placed in equivalent layout positions and their output pins placed in equivalent layout positions, so as to adjust the clock skew (S53).